

# Oregon OSHA

## Fire Services Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

#### Attendees:

Kayla Ballrot, Tom Bozicevic, Ray Dirling, Warren Espinola, Patrick Glenn, Jason Jantzi, Kate Ryan, Reneé Stapleton, Cory Stengel, Jennifer Stewart

#### Meeting agenda:

- Introductions
- Approve December 2025 meeting minutes
- Lessons learned
- Oregon OSHA updates
- Rulemaking: Annual Penalty Bulletin, Lead, Workplace Violence, and HazCom
- Draft of Safety for Non-emergency Wildfire Fuel Risk Reduction Activities
- SCBA facepiece storage during cleaning
- Fatalities & Accidents Reports
- Roundtable (time permitting)

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- Introductions were conducted.
  - December 2025 meeting minutes were approved. Meeting minutes from previous [Fire Services Advisory Council](#) meetings can be found on the Oregon OSHA website.

#### Lessons learned

- Member: Member: We are working on a chief's toolbox that will have be an 18-month intensive program of leadership classes and programmatic risk management. The cohort will be 15 to 20 people. It is with OFCA and based on the National Fire Academy curriculum.
  - Levels will be OIS level, HSO level, true program manager level
  - Oregon OSHA will be asked for input/presentation spring 2027.
  - Program will be rolled out in May, with the goal to kick it off in January 2027.
  - The idea is to get to managing systems instead of just incident management.

- Member: Member: We have been working with the Challenge Program with fire departments. We have seen older buildings using extension cords plugged in to ceilings instead of on the equipment. We are trying to help employers develop something safer, especially for stations that are not staffed all the time. We have seen the wrong gauge of cords being used. We have seen block heaters plugged in inside 24/7 when manufacturer guidelines are for use around 90 minutes.

## Oregon OSHA updates

- **Rulemaking:**
  - **Annual Penalty Bulletin**

Oregon OSHA did temporary rulemaking due to the updated CPI not being available during the federal government shutdown. We will be doing rulemaking in late spring or early summer to add in language to give Oregon OSHA other options if October CPI is ever not available in the future.
  - **Lead**

We hope to pick back up on lead rulemaking toward the end of 2026. The timing will depend on where we land on Workplace violence since the same Technical specialist is working on both sets of rulemaking.
  - **Workplace Violence for Healthcare**

Oregon OSHA is getting fiscal impacts from RAG members. The OHA rule changes may have the most impact to this group and are complete and adopted. Hospital protocols may change and affect this group (EMTs), such as intake of patients. Also discusses in-home hospice.
  - **Hazard Communication**

Oregon OSHA has current rulemaking in progress. There were a lot of errors, so changes from federal OSHA came out and Oregon paused rulemaking. Three revisions were released from federal OSHA in early 2026. Our goal is to propose by the end of March 2026, followed by a comment period lasting roughly 8 weeks. We will be adopting federal OSHA text and applying those to Oregon rules. This group should look specifically at the Bulk Shipment section.
  - **Tethered Logging**

The Forestry Board will not be moving forward with rulemaking on tethered logging. Oregon OSHA may move forward with such rulemaking in early 2027 by looking internally at what our options are, and talking with stakeholders about next steps -- if that is rulemaking or a different path.
  - **Emergency services**
    - Emergency services and federal OSHA have been working on rules since the West, Texas explosion in 2013. Federal OSHA is moving forward with the rulemaking but

doesn't have jurisdiction over public entities, so for them to build a rule that regulates the emergency services that they will not have to investigate or implement is counterproductive. States believe there should be protections but are better at state level.

- This rule could impact volunteers significantly. Volunteers cannot be exempt in Oregon because they are considered paid for our purposes and are covered by workers' compensation insurance. We need to see where this all lands with federal OSHA. They may be moving forward with rulemaking with no additional comment.
- We need to see where this all lands with federal OSHA, if they move forward with rulemaking with no additional comment.

- **Heat**

- This is moving forward with rulemaking. There will be minimal impact in Oregon because federal OSHA used the Oregon OSHA rule to write theirs. There was a bundle of rules in July 2025 that are being promoted differently and now being called "modernization," rather than an abolishment or a repeal. This primarily affects rules in maritime.

- **Respiratory Protection**

- There are 15 rules in respiratory protection. It is a reduction, not an adoption. But we will need to wait and see how that affects Oregon. The relationship to the medical evaluations, fit testing, and all the chemical specifics, it would reduce protections to modernize if they adopt it the way they do now. If Oregon is already as stringent in its rules, then we don't have to adopt any changes.
- OSHA's "Job Safety and Health: It's the Law" poster is now called "OSHA Cares"
- Safety Champions program is where people go into industry and audit the business similar to the SHARP program audit but the people have no real credentialing.

## **Draft of Safety for Non-emergency Wildfire Fuel Risk Reduction Activities**

- Member: We heard of a need for resources when people are doing fuels reduction work so people know what rules actually apply. Those doing the work didn't have a great amount of guidance.
- Tom Bozicevic: This appears to be Division 2 tasks. I pulled some information from an existing landscaping publication as a starting point. Work would be all ground-based work and done by adults, not minors. We would like feedback from this group.
- Member: Will this cover right of way clearing?
- Member: No, and it doesn't include power companies.

- Reneé Stapleton: We need to say what this was intended for, the scope. We would like to see people take the situation and evaluate the hazards, doing a hazard assessment rather than pointing to a rule.
- Member: Do a JSA on every jobsite to put it into practice. That will bring you to a PPE assessment.
- Member: There are various types of equipment used. Timeline is shoulder seasons (prior to and after the wildfire season) for JSA on chippers, and early June. There would be no use of pesticides. For prescribed fires and fuel reduction, this would be on the contract side rather than state or federal, or forest service.
- Question from Oregon OSHA: How does a homeowner qualify for this service?
- Answer from member: If the property is under 10 acres, the homeowner puts in for assessment and there is no cost to the homeowner (paid by grant).
- Member: It could possibly be blend of two ideas: hazard assessment and a tool to think of it from a hazard perspective.
- Question to group from Oregon OSHA: What is the best format for functionality, and stays current and useable by various roles? Checklists can be too narrow.
- Member: All 250+ groups have the potential to adopt this but I am guessing it will be the mid to large groups. It is a staffed program. I am guessing there are 75 groups across the state who would have some level of this.
- Reneé Stapleton: Oregon OSHA has a Field Inspection Guide used for Oregon OSHA heat rule that is open ended and asks questions that aren't yes or no questions. I wonder if we could build something equivalent specific to this rule.
- Tom Bozicevic: Some items haven't been included in this draft, such as access to toilet facilities and safety related to hazards associated with tree felling.
- Member: Traffic control is also not in the draft.
- Jennifer Stewart: Could we get examples of these from fire stations that includes pictures and steps of how they did the hazard assessment?
- Member: I think we could get examples of the programs already in place. Want to stay with a guidance approach rather than hard and fast requirements.

### **SCBA facepiece storage during cleaning**

- This is discussed in [1910.134 \(h\)\(2\)](#) with text below.
- (2) Storage. The employer shall ensure that respirators are stored as follows:
- All respirators shall be stored to protect them from damage, contamination, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture, and damaging chemicals, and they shall be packed or stored to prevent deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.

- In addition to the requirements of paragraph (h)(2)(i) of this section, emergency respirators shall be: (A) Kept accessible to the work area; (B) Stored in compartments or in covers that are clearly marked as containing emergency respirators; and (C) Stored in accordance with any applicable manufacturer instructions
  - Member: They should be stored in an approved container.
  - Member: Storage in the bay would cover everything in the rule.
  - Reneé Stapleton: Hanging the respirators creates deformation and collects dust, etc. in the air.
  - Member: Each employee is issued only one mask. It is used, cleaned, and put right back on the rig for the next call.
  - Reneé Stapleton: There is a distinction between in storage or in service. Cleaned and put back on the rig means it is in service.
  - Member: The storage bags are made of cotton so dust and exhaust could go right through those.
  - Member: How would an inspector know if a mask was meeting storage rules while hanging up to dry?
  - In a worst case scenario, there is one call a month. Crew member cleans equipment, won't go into IDLH. They may leave the station and have someone designated to come back and properly store those face pieces. But that doesn't seem likely.
  - Member: It may get dusty. Damaged vs. dirty are different to me. It is also different that is an outlier vs. entire crew leaving them out because they can.
  - Reneé Stapleton: Dust and exhaust are not great. Put away wet could grow bacteria. The most appropriate SOP would take into account the space in the fire station and that someone specific to that site is responsible for putting them away. There are potential hazards on both sides (hanging and putting them away wet).
  - Questions to consider: Could it be assigned to the respirator administrator? Do the bags say don't put away wet? Do they get deformed from hanging too long? Could stations have a designated clean area?

## **Accident & Fatalities Reports**

These reports were shared with the group.

## **Roundtable**

Share your ideas for topics at the Central Oregon Conference in September. Fire Marshal Tom Mooney in Redmond is OSHA's representative for the fire service track at the conference.

Next meeting is June 10, 2026